HE'S NOT COMING...!
HE'S NOT
COMING AT ALL...
IT'S ALREADY BEEN HALF AN HOUR!
12:30
SOMA!
SOMA!

この世界がゲームだと俺だけが知っている
漫画 イチゼン
原作 ウスバー
SOOOMAAAAAA!!!

GRR-RRR-RR
WOBBLE
WOBBLE
WOBBLE
CHARGE

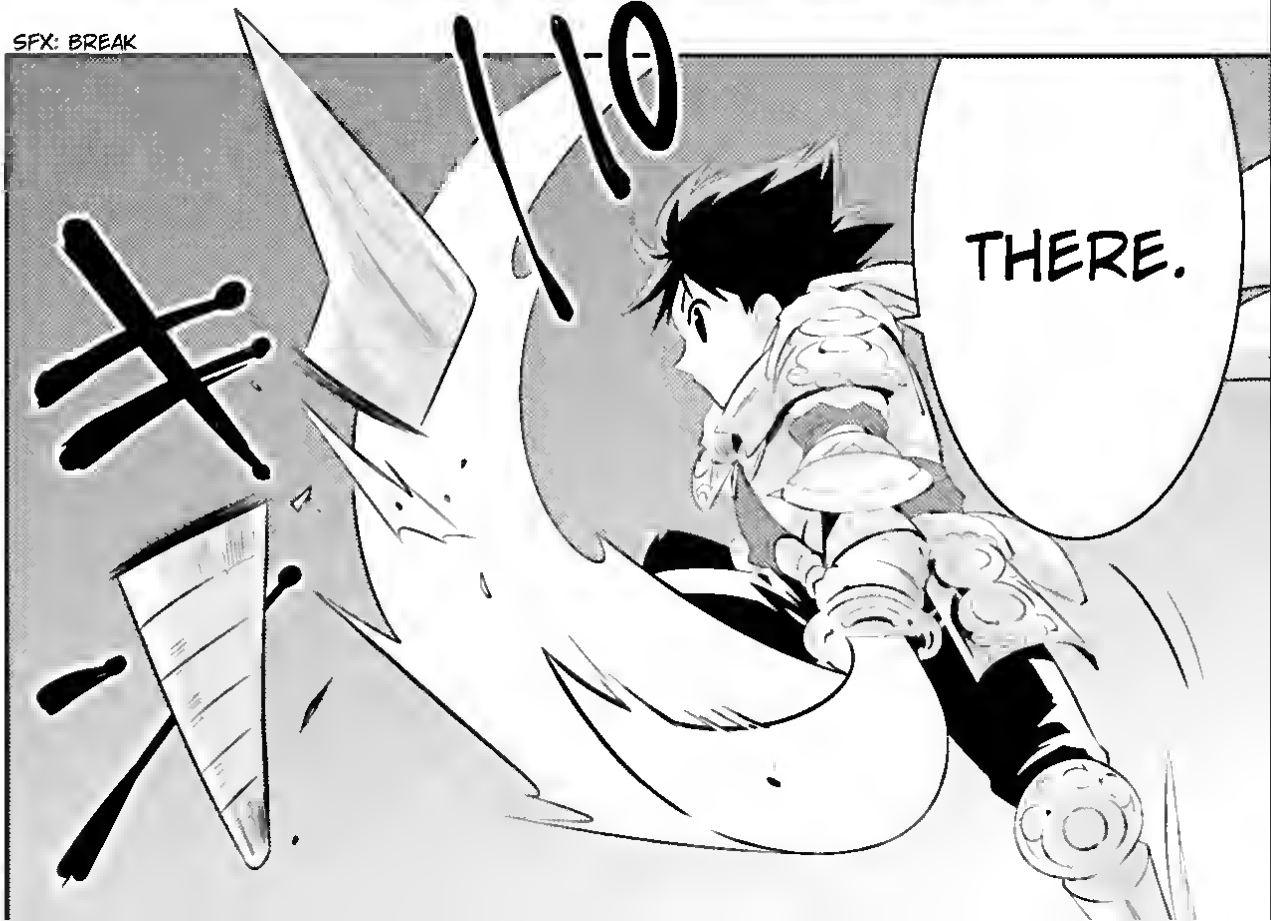
SFX: CLANG
SFX: WHOOSH
TURN
WHOOOOSH
DUCK

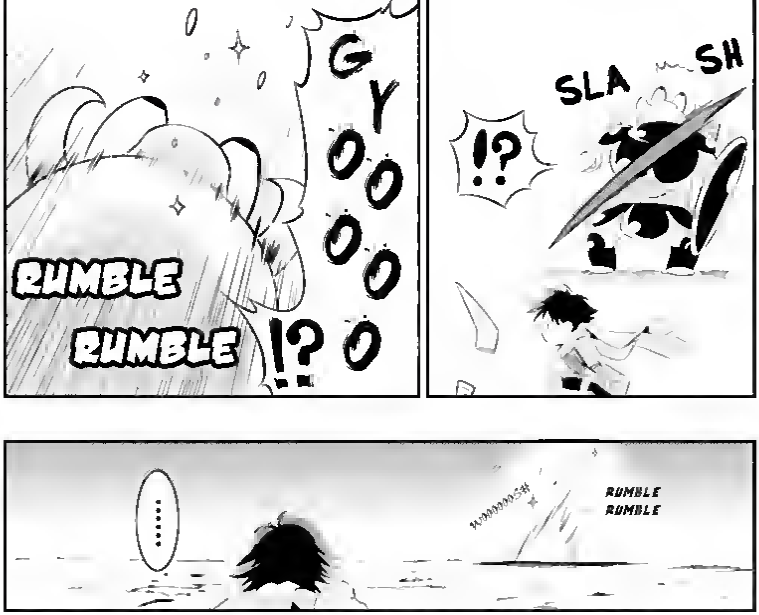
SFX: SPIN SPIN

SFX: SPIN SPIN SPIN

SFX: TURNS

SFX: BREAK



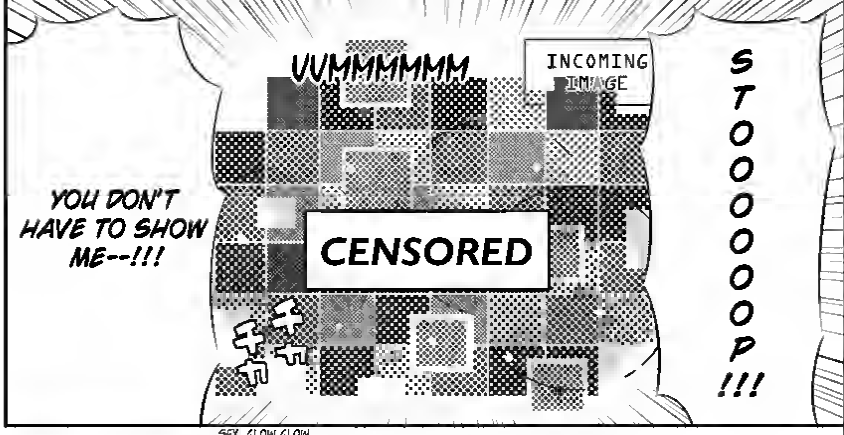

GYOOOOO
RUMBLE RUMBLE
!?
SLA SH
!?
.....
RUMBLE RUMBLE
"FLYING WEAPONS ARE ALSO A PART OF THE BODY!" BUG!
THIS IS THE...
RECEIVING A BUNCH OF DAMAGE JUST BECAUSE YOUR BOOMERANG WAS BROKEN...
HE PROBABLY NEVER EXPECTED IT
SPARKLE SPARKLE

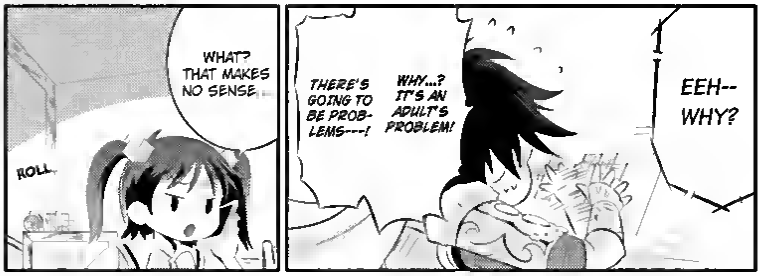
SOMA!
CAN YOU HEAR ME?!
UGH!
SOMA!!
SFX: FLINCH
DON'T "I HEAR YOU" ME! DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT TIME IT IS?
MAKI
WHAT TIME...? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
BEEP BEEP
UH... OH... MAKI...
YEAH, I HEAR YOU.
AAAHH!!
OH...
NO WAY! YOU JUST REMEMBERED!?

UH...
WELL...
WELL SHE'S RIGHT BUT---
YOU WERE PLAYING GAMES AND FORGOT, RIGHT?
UGH...
S SORRY I FORGOT
WE HAD PROMISED THAT WE'D CLEAN THE ANTIQUES IN THE STORAGE ROOM
WIGGLE
WIGGLE
AKA
THE GAME WORLD, "NEMO-MIMINEKO"...
WHERE I AM RIGHT NOW IS "NEW COMMUNICATE ONLINE"...
THE ME IN REAL LIFE...
EVEN THOUGH IT ISN'T A GAME WHERE YOU MOVE YOUR BODY,
A GAME IS A GAME
I'M SORRY
MY BAD
ALTHOUGH I SAY "WHERE I AM" IT ISN'T REAL, OF COURSE.
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
HAM

I AM...
CONNECTED TO A VR MACHINE AND A BUNCH OF CABLES.
JUST WAIT A SECOND...
PSUEDO-EXPERIENCING THE VIRTUAL WORLD
BY THE WAY THIS IS MY COUSIN
MAKI
I CAN'T WAIT
I'VE ALREADY STARTING CLEANING
ALTHOUGH AT FIRST GLANCE SHE LOOKS BOSSY AND STRICT...
SERIOUSLY, OUR STORAGE ONLY HAS USELESS CRAP.
SHE IS ACTUALLY A REALLY BIG...
TROUBLE-MAKER...

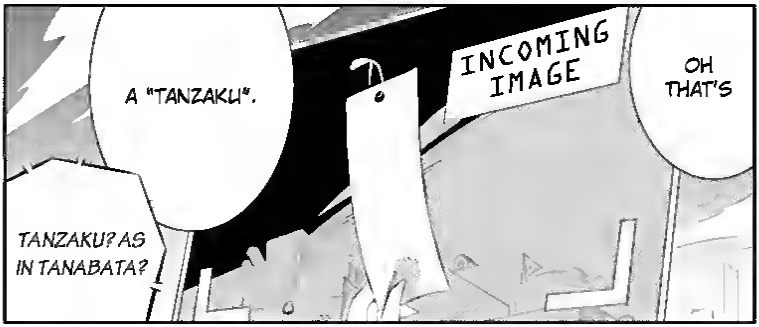
WHAT'S THIS?
OH?
OPENS
A BALL!
YES! IT'S LIKE GLASS
A BALL...?
AND IT'S ORANGE.
DIAM
HEY, HEY.
2...3...4... THERE'S SEVEN IN TOTAL...
7 ORANGE BALLS...?
DO THEY HAPPEN TO HAVE STARS INSIDE THEM?
STARS?
HOW'D YOU KNOW? DID YOU KNOW ABOUT THEM?
THEY ALL HAVE A DIFFERENT NUMBER OF STARS
YES, THERE ARE!
HUH?!
I'LL SEND YOU A PIC.
FLASH
MAKI
W-WAIT!!!
TH... THAT'S!


UUMMMMMM
INCOMING IMAGE
STOOOOOOP!!!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO SHOW ME--!!!
CENSORED
SFX GLOW GLOW

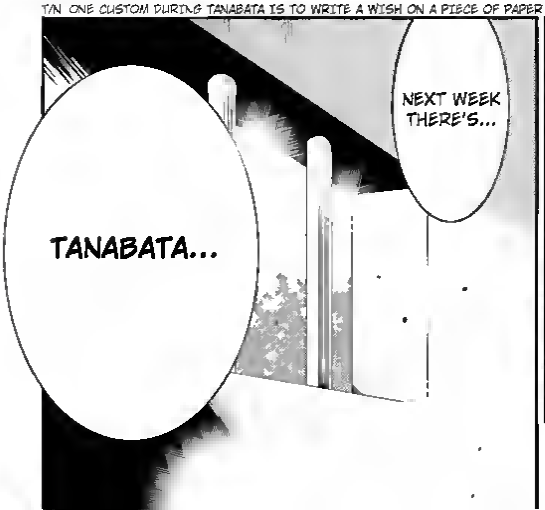

WHAT? THAT MAKES NO SENSE
ROLL
THERE'S GOING TO BE PROBLEMS---!
WHY...? IT'S AN ADULT'S PROBLEM!
EEH-- WHY?

BREAK
BREAK
BREAK
BREAK
BREAK
BREAK
LET'S JUST BREAK THEM ALL AND THROW THEM AWAY-
WHATEVER-
.....
DON'T BREAK IT! IT CAN BREAK?!
OH
IT BROKE
BREAK

OH...?
THAT'S...
WHAT IS THIS..?
WH-
WHAT'S WRONG?
I'VE SEEN THIS BEFORE, BUT I CAN'T REMEMBER...
...OH!
I KNOW!!
IT'S A CURRY POT!!
CURRY?
BUT AT OUR HOUSE WE MAKE CURRY WITH A LADEL
WE... DON'T NEED IT.
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
WILL IT BECOME CLEAN IF I RUB IT?
MOMOMOMO
RUB
EW!! A WEIRD COLORED SMOKE'S COMING OUT!!
LET'S JUST THROW IT AWAY-!!!
SMASH
AND THIS...?

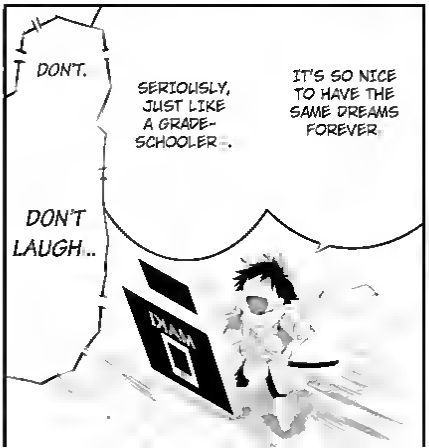


T/N: ONE CUSTOM DURING TANABATA IS TO WRITE A WISH ON A PIECE OF PAPER AND HANG IT ON BAMBOO.



HEHEHE
I WROTE A WISH.
HUH? ON THE TANZAKU?
ARE YOU A GRADE SCHOOLER?
WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT? IT MIGHT COME TRUE
WRITES
EH---
WELL THEN WHAT'D YOU WRITE?
"I WANNA EAT SALMON ROE SUSHI UNTIL I--"
I BET IT'S SOMETHING LIKE "I WANNA EAT PANCAKES UNTIL I DIE" OR
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT--!
WANT ME TO GUESS WHAT YOU WROTE?
I GUESS THAT'S BECAUSE TANABATA HASN'T STARTED YET
BUT NOTHING'S HAPPENING
TH...
THAT'S...

I WANT TO BECOME A PRINCESS.
...WHAT?


DON'T.
SERIOUSLY, JUST LIKE A GRADE-SCHOOLER.
IT'S SO NICE TO HAVE THE SAME DREAMS FOREVER
DON'T LAUGH..
DASH

HAHA
HAHA
HAHA

ANYWAY, FORGET THAT...
YOU SHOULD... COME PLAY GAMES AT OUR HOUSE SOMETIME.
WHAT?
ALTHOUGH MAYBE NOT TODAY
MAYBE NEXT WEEK DURING TANABATA
YEP,
BECAUSE YOU FORGOT TODAY'S PROMISE.
NEXT WEEK!?
NO WAY, NO WAY!
NEXT WEEK, I'M BUSY WITH UNIVERSITY!
AND WHEN I'M DONE WITH CLASS, I'M TOO BUSY PLAYING GAMES.
I DON'T HAVE TIME TO GO THERE AT.. ALL...
DYAM
GASP
I SEE...
SOMA, YOU ALWAYS...
ALWAYS... ALWAYS...

IT'S ALWAYS ABOUT GAMES!
OH SHIT.
GAMES
GAMES
GAMES
GAMES,
YOU SAY

MA...
MAKI.
AND YOU DITCH IT FOR GAMES!
TODAY TOO! I THOUGHT I FINALLY GOT YOU TO PROMISE,

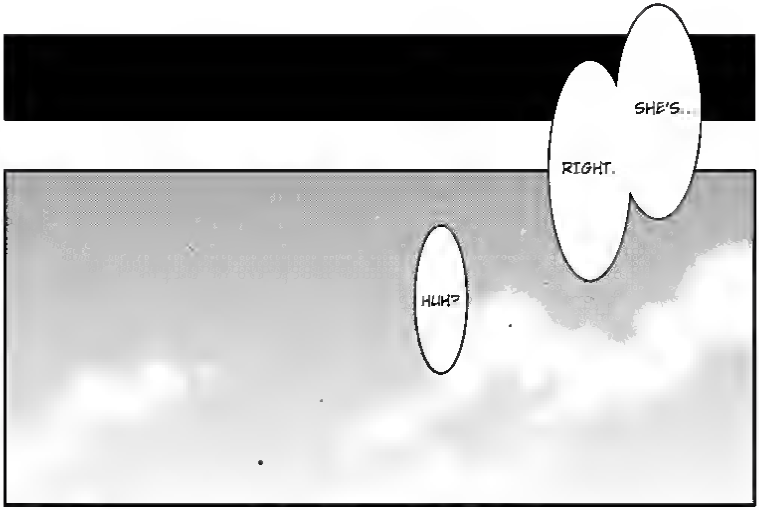
PERFECT THING!
I FOUND THE
!

A WOODEN HAMMER!
HAMMER?!
I JUST FEEL LIKE HITTING YOU WITH ALL MY STRENGTH!
SOMA YOU'RE DENSE,
INSENSITIVE,
AND YOU HAVE NO DELICACY AT ALL.
UGH
GAH
MAKI'S PSYCHOLOGICAL ATTACK
BECAUSE YOU'RE ALWAYS IN YOUR FAKE WORLD,
YOU CAN'T UNDERSTAND OTHER PEOPLE'S FEELINGS!
IF YOU WANT TO PLAY GAMES THAT MUCH...
IF YOU'VE BECOME LIKE THAT,
THEN I MIGHT AS WELL...
RAISE

YOU REALLY SHOULD
GO TO THE VIDEO GAME WORLD!!
IDIOT!!!
SFX KLANG
SFX SHATTERS

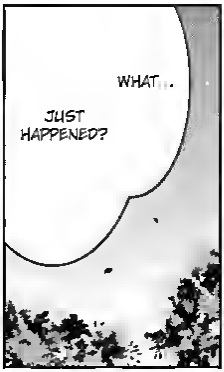
SFX VOOM
<SOMA>
SOMA
SAGARA
<SOMA>

TL NOTE: SAGARA SOMA IS SOMA'S NAME IN REAL LIFE WHILE <SOMA> IS HIS USERNAME


SHE'S..
RIGHT.
HUH?

WAKES

.....
HMM?


WHAT..
JUST HAPPENED?

UGH..
RUSTLE

WHERE...
AM I?

I WAS SUPPOSED TO BE IN THE MOL WILDERNESS.
MAKI!
MAKI!
HEY!
PROBABLY INSIDE NEKOMIMINEKO.

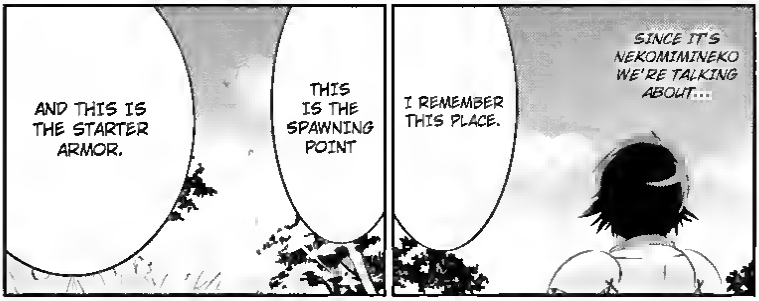
EVEN IF IT CONNECTED, IT WOULD BE VERY AWKWARD.
WELL I GUESS SO.
I WON'T BE ABLE TO SEE HER FOR A WHILE

SILENT...
MAKI,
DID SHE HANG UP?

HUH?
.....
CLUNK
HERE WE GO.

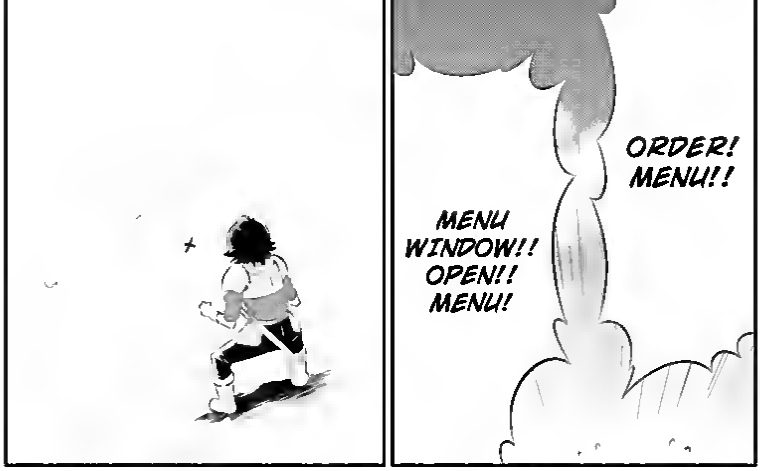
OH, RIGHT.
WHERE'S MY IMMORTALITY FIRE ARMOR?!
MY SHOES OF THE HEAVENLY HORSE?!
WHAT'S WITH THIS CRAPPY ARMOR?
HUH!?
WOOL CLOTHES
LASTING LONGSWORD

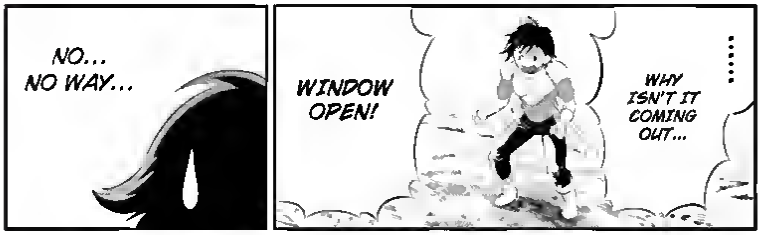
THIS IS A BUG.
PROBABLY...
IN ANY CASE...


SINCE IT'S NEKOMIMINEKO WE'RE TALKING ABOUT...
I REMEMBER THIS PLACE.
THIS IS THE SPAWNING POINT
AND THIS IS THE STARTER ARMOR.

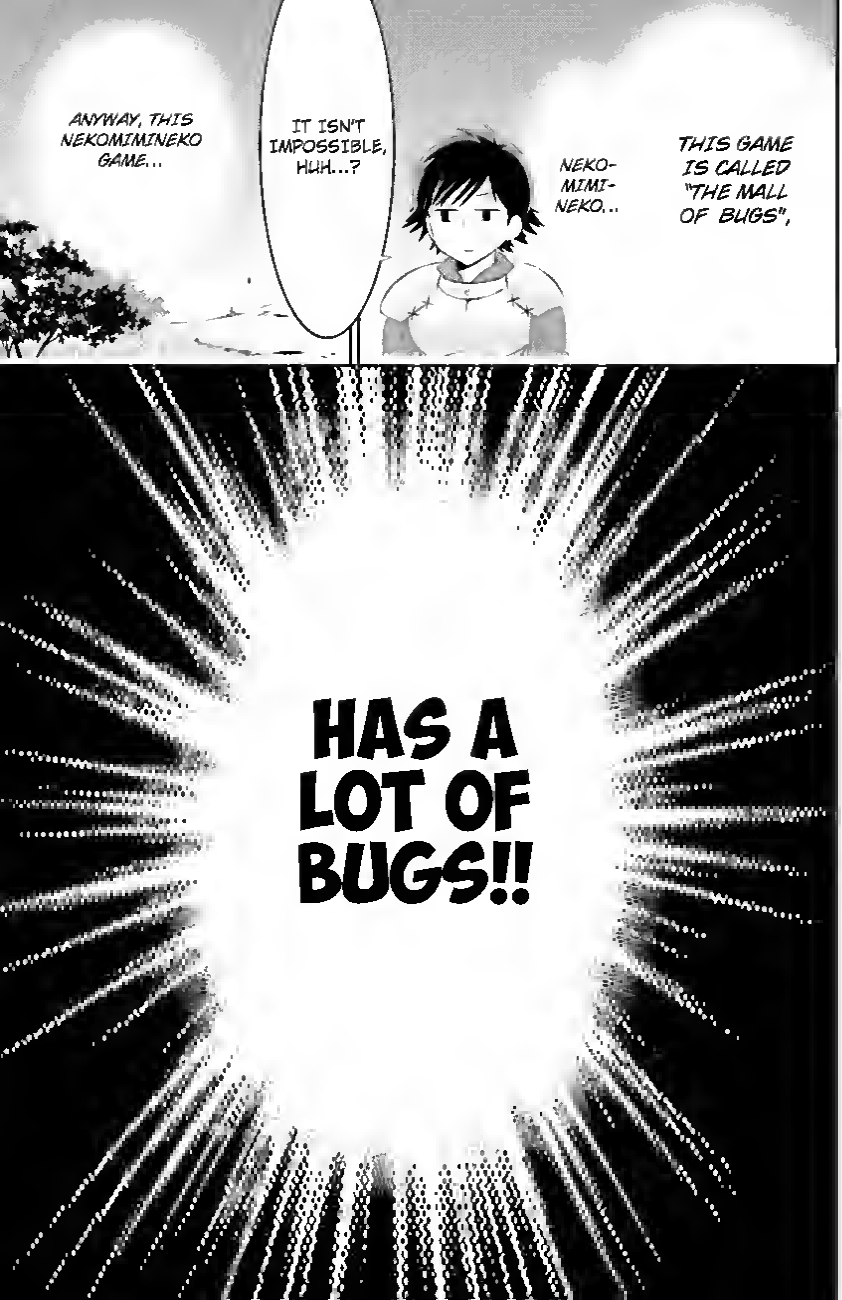
SPY ZOOM
SINCE I WAS TALKING TO MAKI SINCE A MOMENT AGO VIA AN EXTERNAL CONNECTION
AND SHE CUT IT ABRUPTLY,
THE GAME PROBABLY GOT REFORMATTED BY SOME MISTAKE.
MAKI
CUTS

I ONLY HAVE TO OPEN THE MENU AND LOAD MY DATA.
WELL, SINCE I KNOW THAT,
I HOPE MY SAVE FILE'S NOT CORRUPTED.
YOU GOTTA BE KIDDING ME.
MENU.
INHALE
ORDER.
HUH!?
UH...


ORDER! MENU!!
MENU WINDOW!! OPEN!! MENU!

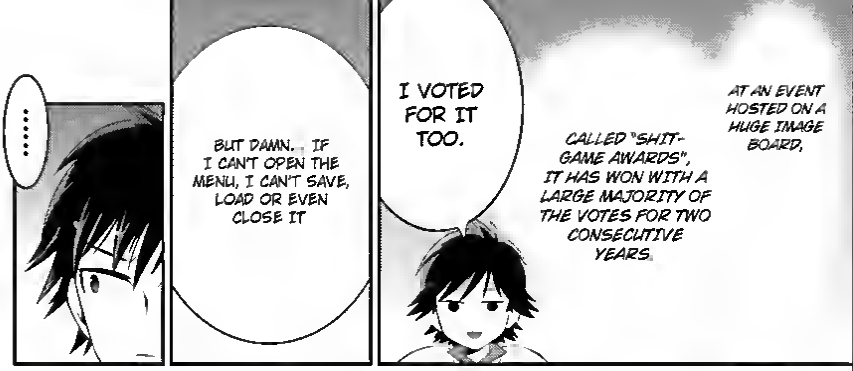

NO... NO WAY...
WINDOW OPEN!
WHY ISN'T IT COMING OUT...
.....

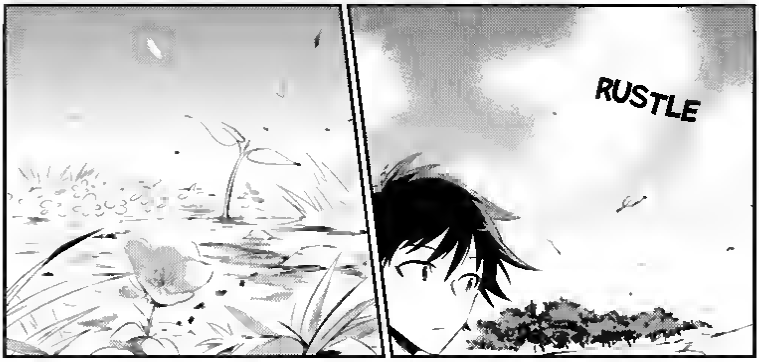
I'VE NEVER HEARD OF A BUG THAT MAKES YOU UNABLE TO OPEN THE MENU.
WELL, IT'S NEKOMIMINEKO, SO MAYBE .
IS THIS ALSO A BUG?!

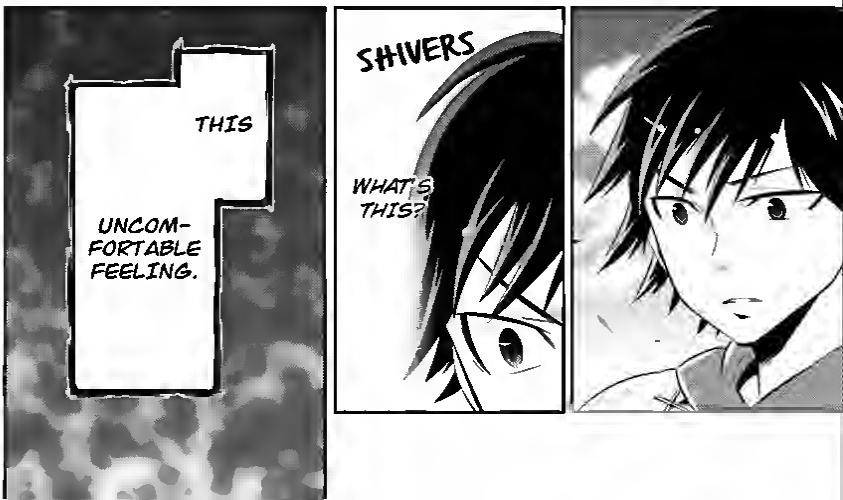

ANYWAY, THIS NEKOMIMINEKO GAME...
IT ISN'T IMPOSSIBLE, HUH...?
NEKO-MIMI-NEKO...
THIS GAME IS CALLED "THE MALL OF BUGS",
HAS A LOT OF BUGS!!

THE SAME CHARACTER APPEARS 3 TIMES
!?
NPC
A CHARACTER THAT'S SUPPOSED TO BE DEAD APPEARS AS IF NOTHING HAPPENED
BOW SKILLS DON'T COME OUT FROM A BOW
ROAR
?
AXE SKILLS COME OUT FROM A SWORD
THESE ARE ONLY THE BEGINNING
THERE ARE DUNGEONS WHERE ALL THE MONSTERS HAVE DIED BY TRIGGERING MAP TRAPS.
SILENCE
A MONSTER WITH 0 HP APPEARS, ATTACKS AND KILLS YOU IN ONE SHOT.

YOU DEEEAT A SILVER SLIME, BUT BECAUSE OF A CODE MISTAKE, YOU GET A CRAPPY AMOUNT OF EXP
AFTER A MIDAIR JUMP YOU CAN WALK IN THE AIR, BUT YOU CAN'T COME DOWN UNTIL YOU DIE
SIZZLE
I CAN'T COME DOWN!!
IF YOU USE 2 SKILLS WITH SUPER-FLASHY EFFECTS AT THE SAME TIME, YOU DISCONNECT AND THE POWER GOES OUT
TYPICAL PURE METAL FROM THE FAMOUS JAPANESE MMORPG DRAGON QUEST X. IT RUNS AWAY AFTER A FEW TURNS, SO IT IS VERY HARD TO KILL, BUT GRANTS A LOT OF XP.
!?
SFX THUD
THIS IS ALSO A CODE MISTAKE...
THE SECOND YOU MEET IT.
INSTAKILL.
A SUPER-STRONG BOSS THAT CASUALLY WALKS THROUGH LOW-LEVEL ZONES
AND BECAUSE OF MANY MORE BUGS,
SFX THUD


AT AN EVENT HOSTED ON A HUGE IMAGE BOARD,
CALLED "SHIT-GAME AWARDS", IT HAS WON WITH A LARGE MAJORITY OF THE VOTES FOR TWO CONSECUTIVE YEARS.
I VOTED FOR IT TOO.
BUT DAMN. . IF I CAN'T OPEN THE MENU, I CAN'T SAVE, LOAD OR EVEN CLOSE IT
.....


RUSTLE


THIS UNCOM-FORTABLE FEELING.
SHIVERS
WHAT'S THIS?

THE FIRST EVENT IN NEKOMIMINEKO, THE BIGGEST NOOB KILLER.
HAS IT STARTED!?
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
CLANG
GYAAAAH
FIRST MISSION PROTECT THE MERCHANT
"LIZARDMAN'S TRAP!"
ALL RIGHT, LET'S GO!
RUNS
BESIDES, I WANT TO CONFIRM IF THE EVENTS ARE STILL WORKING.
WHAT SHOULD I DO? ALTHOUGH I'M IN THIS STATE, I CAN'T JUST LEAVE IT ALONE!!!

CAN I USE SKILLS?
THAT'S RIGHT.
MY BODY'S LIGHT!
I'M NOT AFRAID OF ANYTHING!
HA HA HA
THE VIDEO GAME WORLD IS THE BEST!
SFX TAP TAP TAP
SFX ZOOM
STEP.
HEY,
I CAN USE THIS NO PROBLEM!
STEPS

HEAVY
UGH
SKILL STUN!
AND
IT LOOKS LIKE MY STAMINA'S BEEN RESET TO THE DEFAULT, TOO
ALTHOUGH I CAN'T CHECK BECAUSE I CAN'T OPEN THE MENU.

BUT ..
A RESET BUG THIS TIME? YOU'RE KIDDING ME...
C'MON
SIGH
I'M PROBABLY LEVEL 1 RIGHT NOW

WELCOME TO THE WORLD OF NEKOMIMINEKO!!
YOU'RE A STARTING ADVENTURER!

I'VE HAD A WEIRD SENSATION SINCE THE RESET.
LET'S HURRY
...?
AS I THOUGHT...
GRIP

SFX: LANG

FORCED MISSION:
PROTECT THE MERCHANT!
THE EVIL BANDITS ARE AFTER THE MERCHANT'S CARRIAGE!
COOPERATE WITH THE MERCHANT TO DEFEAT THE BANDITS!

SFX: KISS

BUT...
YOU ONLY HAVE TO JOIN THE MERCHANT'S SIDE AND DEFEAT THE BANDITS,
MERCHANT
BANDITS
PLAYER
THE MISSION IS CLEAR AND SIMPLE.
THEY PUT MALICIOUS TRAPS AND TRAUMAS IN SIMPLE-LOOKING EVENTS
THE DEVELOPERS ARE TRULY ROTTEN TO THE CORE.
THE MISSION ISN'T THAT SIMPLE
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
LOOK AT THIS SITUATION.

GYAAH
SLASH
HERE!
IN FACT, I DID TOO
OVER 90% OF NEW PLAYERS EXPERIENCE THEIR FIRST DEATH HERE.
SFX: SLASH
NO MERCY!
BANDITS!
GAH!!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING! YOU BASTARD!!
SFX: CLANG CLANG
CLANG
CLANG
ギガ
キン

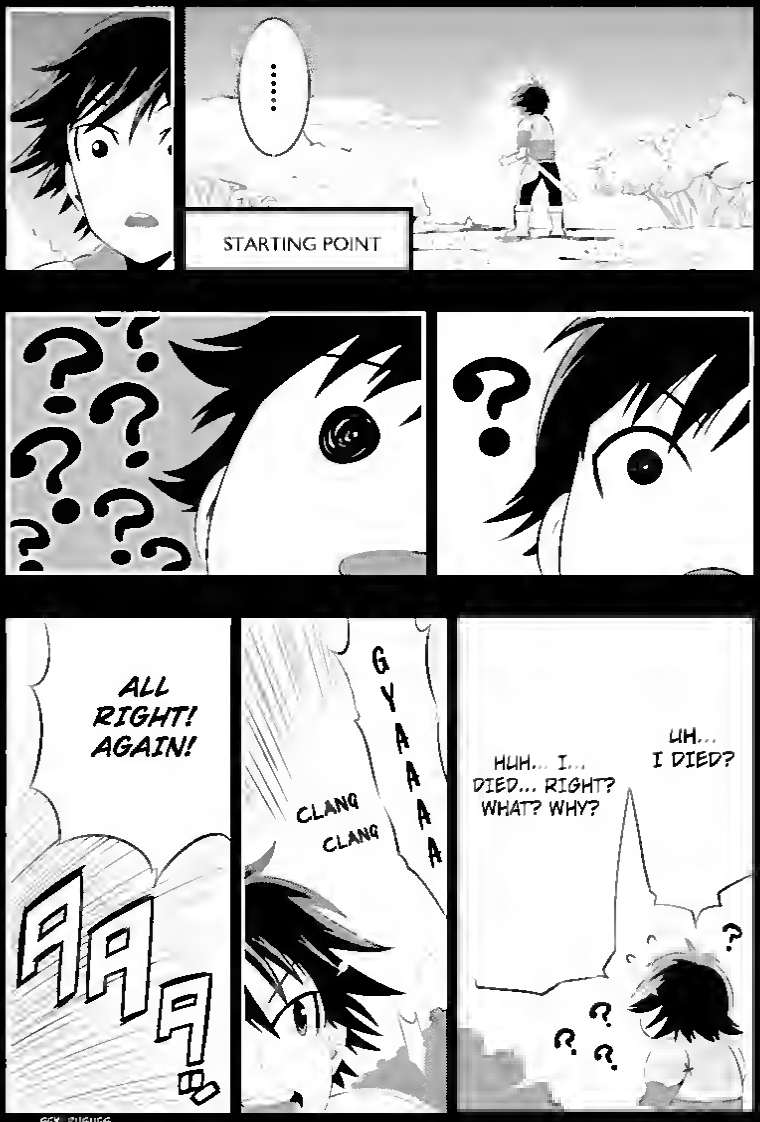
CLANG
CLANG
CLANG
I'VE DEFEATED ALL THE LIZARDMEN!!
YEAH!
YOU'RE SAFE NOW, MERCHANT!
TURNS

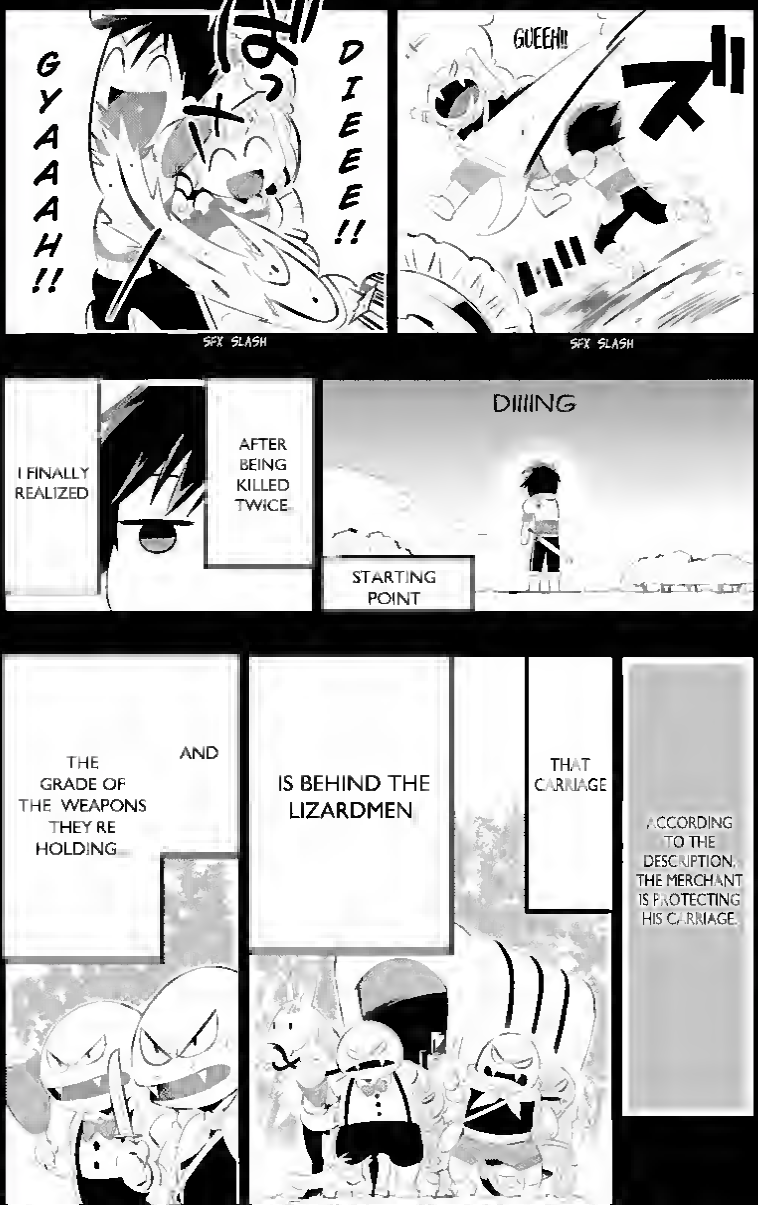
YOUR CONSCIOUS IS FADING AWAY...

GAME OVER

RETRY

RETURN TO TITLE


.....
STARTING POINT
??
?
ALL RIGHT! AGAIN!
AAA
CLANG CLANG
GYAAAA
UH... I DIED?
HUH... I... DIED... RIGHT? WHAT? WHY?
?
?
?

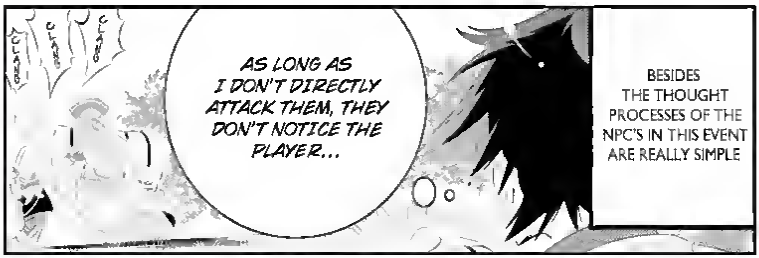

GYAAAH!!
DIEEE!!
SFX SLASH
GUEEH!!
SFX SLASH
I FINALLY REALIZED
AFTER BEING KILLED TWICE...
DIIIING
STARTING POINT
THE GRADE OF THE WEAPONS THEY RE HOLDING
AND
IS BEHIND THE LIZARDMEN
THAT CARRIAGE
ACCORDING TO THE DESCRIPTION, THE MERCHANT IS PROTECTING HIS CARRIAGE

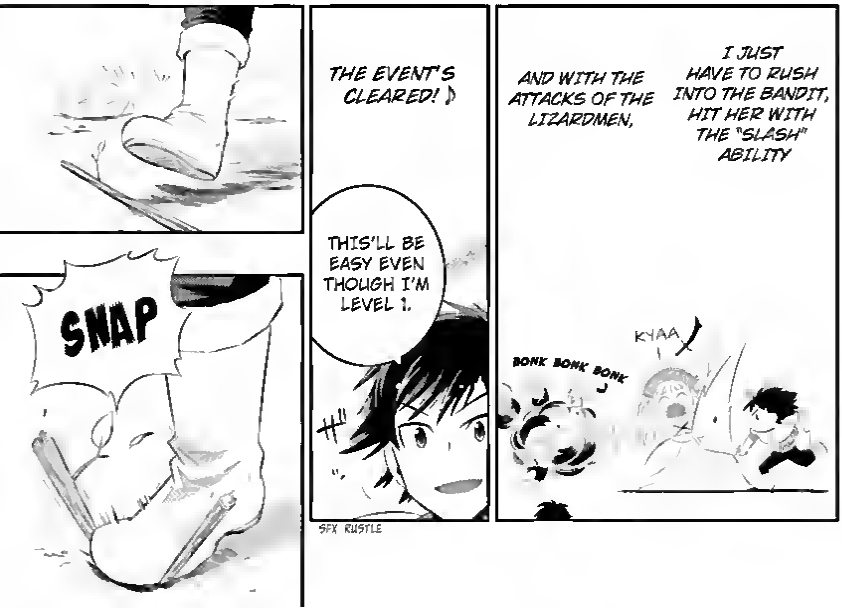
THE WOMAN'S IS BETTER!
CLEARLY
SFX GLISTEN
TAKES ADVANTAGE OF THE PLAYER'S PREJUDICE AND EXPECTATIONS FOR A CLICHE RPG
IN OTHER WORDS, THIS IS A VICIOUS NOOB-KILLING TRAP THAT
IN SHORT THE MERCHANT THAT MUST BE PROTECTED
IS THE GROUP OF LIZARDMEN
AND THE ENEMY
THAT NEEDS TO BE DEFEATED IS...

THIS WOMAN!!
PLAYER HARRASSMENT BY THE NEKO-MIMINEKO STAFF!!
THIS IS...
ANYONE WOULD HAVE MISTAKENLY ATTACK THEM. THERE'S NOT EVEN ANY POINT IN MAKING THE MERCHANTS LIZARDMEN!!
I COULDN'T HAVE GUESSED THAT OUT OF NO-WHERE
ARE THE MECHANTS LIZARD-MEN?
BESIDES, WHY...
SINCE THE LIZARDMEN LOOK SCARY AND MONSTER-LIKE THE PLAYER EXPECTS THEM TO BE THE ENEMY

THIS IS WHY IT'S CALLED
"THE LIZARDMEN'S TRAP"!!

I WON'T FALL INTO THE TRAP.
I'M FULLY AWARE OF THE LIZARDMEN'S TRAP
I'M NOT A NEWCOMER
IT DOESN'T MATTER TO ME.
WELL,

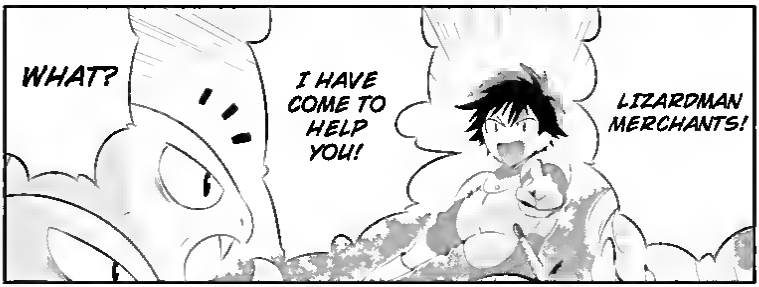

AS LONG AS I DON'T DIRECTLY ATTACK THEM, THEY DON'T NOTICE THE PLAYER...
BESIDES THE THOUGHT PROCESSES OF THE NPC'S IN THIS EVENT ARE REALLY SIMPLE

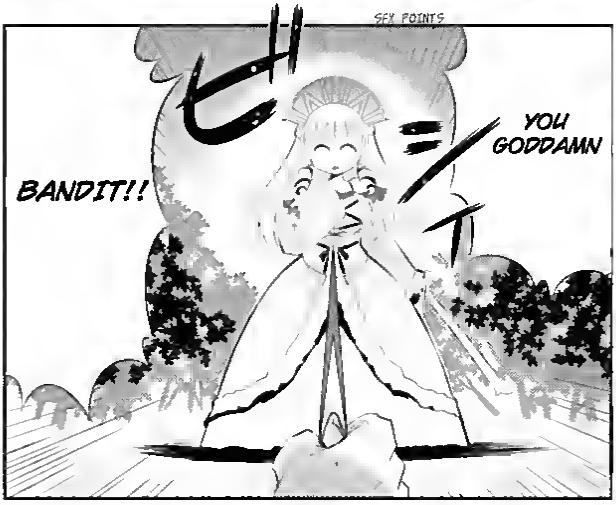

SNAP
THIS'LL BE EASY EVEN THOUGH I'M LEVEL 1.
THE EVENT'S CLEARED! ♪
SFX RUSTLE
AND WITH THE ATTACKS OF THE LIZARDMEN,
I JUST HAVE TO RUSH INTO THE BANDIT, HIT HER WITH THE "SLASH" ABILITY
BONK BONK BONK
KYAA

SFX TURN

SFX ROAR
WHO ARE YOU!?
THEY NOTICED ME...?!
NO... I'M...
WHAT!?
ARE YOU ALSO A BANDIT!?
ACTUALLY...
HISS
WAS THERE A SCENE LIKE THIS?
WHY DID THEY NOTICE ME?
ARE SO HOSTILE...!
THE LOOKS OF THE LIZARD-MEN
WH.. WHAT SHOULD I DO ..
IS THERE SOMETHING WRONG TODAY?

LI
SHIT..
LI..
I HAVEN'T EVEN HIT THEM, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE I'M GATHERING AGGRO.
WELL I'M A HUMAN, SO...
THEY THINK I'M A BANDIT TOO.


WHAT?
I HAVE COME TO HELP YOU!
LIZARDMAN MERCHANTS!

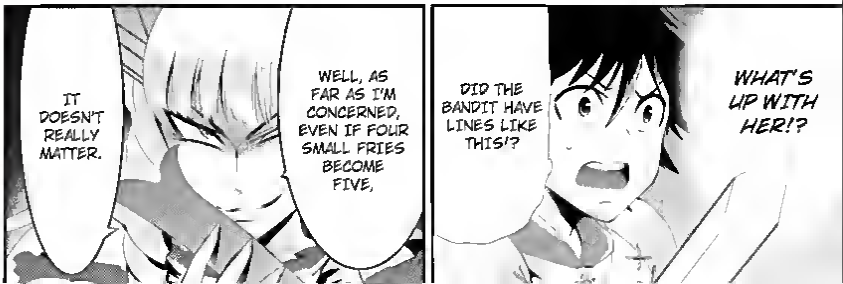

SFX POINTS
BANDIT!!
YOU GODDAMN

SFX PULLS

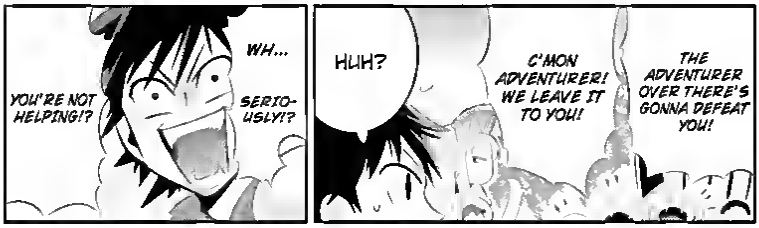
I SHALL DEFEAT YOU!
NICE!!
THIS!
SHINES
HOW'S...
SFX SST
SFX SMIRKS

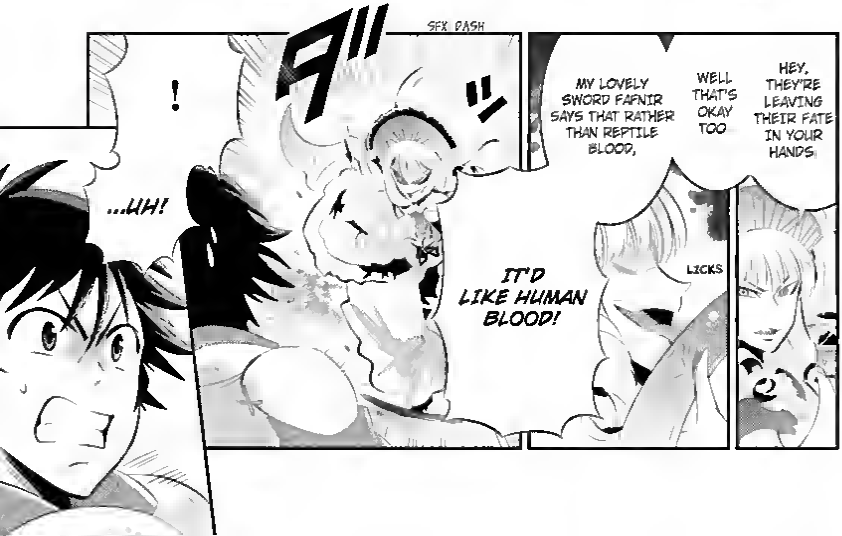
I'M THE BANDIT!!
YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT!!
NICE GUESS, KID!
SFX CACKLE

UGH...
YOU'RE PRETTY GOOD, HUH?
ALTHOUGH IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE JUST A NOOB,

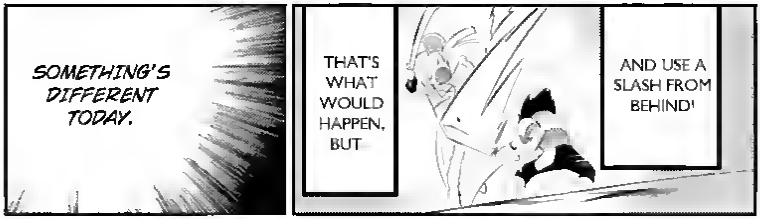

IT DOESN'T REALLY MATTER.
WELL, AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, EVEN IF FOUR SMALL FRIES BECOME FIVE,
DID THE BANDIT HAVE LINES LIKE THIS!?
WHAT'S UP WITH HER!?

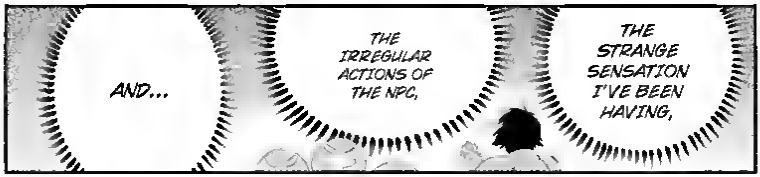
WHAT?
WH...
INCLUDING THE CARRIAGE!
IF YOU DON'T WANT TO DIE, LEAVE ALL YOUR THINGS HERE,
HEY REPTILES!

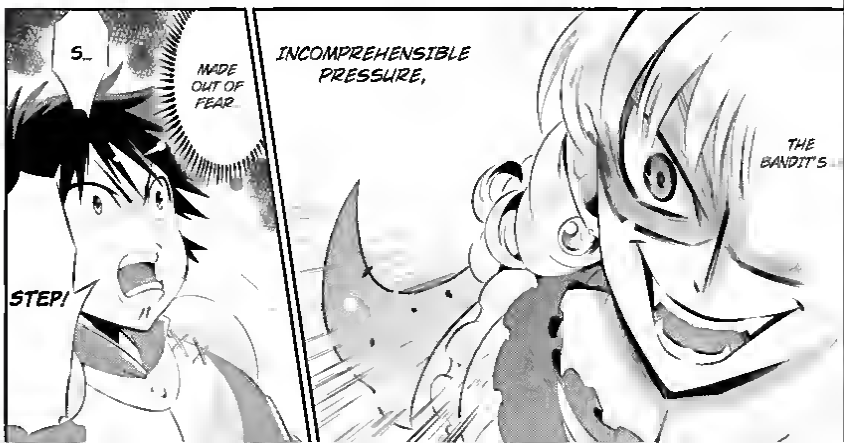

YOU'RE NOT HELPING!?
WH...
SERIO-USLY!?
HUH?
C'MON ADVENTURER! WE LEAVE IT TO YOU!
THE ADVENTURER OVER THERE'S GONNA DEFEAT YOU!


SFX: DASH
!
...UH!
IT'D LIKE HUMAN BLOOD!
LICKS
MY LOVELY SWORD FAFNIR SAYS THAT RATHER THAN REPTILE BLOOD,
WELL THAT'S OKAY TOO
HEY, THEY'RE LEAVING THEIR FATE IN YOUR HANDS

I'M...
AN EXPERT NEKOMIMINEKO PLAYER
IF IT WAS THE USUAL ME,
SHUUP
A THING SUCH AS A BANDIT'S STRAIGHT ATTACK, I'D DODGE WITH JUST A SIDESTEP,


SOMETHING'S DIFFERENT TODAY.
THAT'S WHAT WOULD HAPPEN, BUT
AND USE A SLASH FROM BEHIND!


AND...
THE IRREGULAR ACTIONS OF THE NPC,
THE STRANGE SENSATION I'VE BEEN HAVING,


S...
MADE OUT OF FEAR
STEP!
INCOMPREHENSIBLE PRESSURE,
THE BANDIT'S

SFX DODGE
DODGE
BACK.
SFX STEP
SFX HEAVY
SKILL STUN.
SKILLS ARE VERY USEFUL AND STRONG, BUT
THEY ALSO HAVE A BIG WEAKNESS!
UGH.
SFX FREEEZE
SFX APPEAR
YOU FELL FOR IT!
I... CAN'T MOVE!
AFTER USING YOUR ABILITY, YOU BECOME PARALYZED FOR A MOMENT! THIS IS SKILL STUN!
STANDING STILL, EASY TARGET!
FREEEEZE
WHAT!?
THINK ABOUT WHEN TO USE SKILES

SLASH!!!
DIE!
GH!
I STILL CAN'T MOVE!
SFX SHOCK
FROZEN
SFX TWANG
SFX WOOSH
SFX CLASH
MOVE!!
SFX GRIP
MOVE!!!
HURRY... HURRY...

...OUCH.
TSU
FALLING
IM
PACT

TSK.

SFX TWAAAAAG
MY TIMING OF THE SLASH WAS A BIT OFF I SEE...
THE STUN WORE OFF AND YOU MANAGED TO GUARD, HUH...?
SLASH SKILL STUN
YOU GOT LUCKY.
...T...

TIMING!?
SHE... AIMED FOR ME JUST AFTER I USED STEP!
SHE TIMED HER ATTACK!
SUCH HIGH LEVEL COMBAT!
IT'S ALMOST AS IF...
AS IF...
FWIU
.....
RIGHT NOW, I'VE...
CLEARLY...
CONFIRMED...
THE STRANGE SENSATION I HAVE BEEN FEELING.

THE SMELL OF GRASS,
THE WARM BREEZE THAT TOUCHES MY SKIN,
THE SOUND OF SWAYING LEAVES,
THE HOT RAYS OF THE SUN,
THE UNSTOPPING
PALPITATION...
THUMP
THUMP
THAT DOESN'T STOP,
THE SWEAT
THE SENSATION OF GOING PALE,
EVERYTHING THAT'S HAPPENING...
THIS ISN'T A GAME.
THUMP
THUMP

IS REAL!!!
I'LL FINISH YOU THIS TIME.

Hot Chocolate Scans

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